



For Immediate Release
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**STATE HONORS 80 MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITIES
WITH 2006 TREE CITY USA AWARDS**

3 Utility Companies Presented with 2006 Tree Line USA Awards

WORCESTER— The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) today presented 80 Massachusetts communities with the **2006 Tree City USA Award** in a ceremony at the Worcester Ecotarium. DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington presented the national awards, sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in recognition of communities of any size that are making a commitment to community and urban forestry.

The cities of **Worcester** and **Springfield** received special recognition for receiving their Twentieth Year Tree City USA Award. **Duxbury, Framingham, Swampscott,** and **Watertown** received their Fifteenth Year Award. Tenth, fifth and first year recipients also received special notice. In addition, **Chelsea, Lawrence, Springfield, Sturbridge, Wellesley** and **Worcester** received special **Growth Awards** for improving their respective urban forestry programs over the past year.

“Massachusetts has the largest number of Tree City USA communities in all of New England and New York, a testament to the dedication of the municipal, corporate, non-profit and public partners who are working hard to protect and expand our community and urban forests,” said Commissioner Burrington. “Tree City USA awards honor these organizations for their work, but the results are something of which we can all be proud.”

Three Massachusetts utility companies, NSTAR, Chicopee Electric Light and National Grid, received **2006 Tree Line USA Awards** for meeting standards in quality tree care, ongoing worker training, and tree planting and education programs. Commissioner Burrington also presented a certificate of special recognition to National Grid for their recent donation of \$250,000 to the Mass ReLeaf Trust Fund to help fund DCR’s Urban Forestry Challenge Grants Program

“This \$250,000 donation from National Grid is the largest single private contribution ever made to the DCR Mass ReLeaf Trust fund,” said Commissioner Burrington. “This money will help communities build their capacity to manage their urban and community forest resources by supporting the development of forest management plans, funding tree inventories, and supporting professional staff development.”

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary
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Tree City USA awards recognize communities which meet four standards, including having a tree board or tree department, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, enforcing laws that protect public trees, and holding an Arbor Day celebration. Tree Line USA awards recognize public and private utilities across the nation that demonstrate practices that protect and enhance urban forests.

Tenth Year Tree City USA Benchmark Awards were presented to **Amesbury, Boston, Groton, Haverhill, Newburyport, North Adams, Peabody, Quincy, and Waltham**. Fifth Year Tree City USA winners included **Beverly, Holyoke, Sandwich, and Wakefield**. Six first-time Tree City USA communities were honored: **Blackstone, Boxford, Fall River, Lanesborough, Northampton, and Pittsfield**.

Other 2006 Tree Cities USA Award winners (with the number years they have participated in the program in parentheses) include:

Amherst (19), Andover (7), Arlington (4), Barnstable (9), Bedford (6), Belmont (21), Billerica (2), Bridgewater (9), Brockton (8), Brookline (18), Cambridge (14), Chelsea (2), Chicopee (13), Danvers (19), Easton (18), Falmouth (9), Gloucester (14), Grafton (6), Greenfield (4), Hanscom Air Force Base (19), Hingham (19), Ipswich (6), Lawrence (4), Leominster (8), Lexington (17), Lowell (9), Lynn (16), Manchester-by-the-Sea (18), Marblehead (7), Marion (9), Marshfield (11), Medford (8), Melrose (8), Needham (11), New Bedford (6), Newton (17), Orleans (8), Plymouth (17), Reading (21), Salem (4), Saugus (7), Scituate (6), Sharon (14), Sherborn (6), Somerville (11), Stoneham (6), Sturbridge (17), Sutton (6), Wellesley (23), West Bridgewater (12), West Springfield (18), Westfield (2), Weston (3), Westover Air Reserve Base (9), and Weymouth (6).

The Tree City USA and Tree Line USA awards programs are administered by DCR's Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

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